

Communications Interoperability Steering Committee Meeting

January 15, 2004

State of Wisconsin Dept. of Military Affairs Emergency Command Center

Madison, WI - 1:00 P.M.

Host: Wisconsin Emergency Management

Meeting Summary

The first meeting of the Communications Interoperability Steering Committee was held in conjunction with an introductory presentation by Federal Engineering Inc. of Fairfax, VA. OJA wishes to thank Mr. Al Wohlferd and others from WEM for hosting the event and providing support.

Present: (Steering Committee Members) Commander Mark Meyer – City of Milwaukee Police Department, Technical Services Bureau; Chief Deputy John Sweeney – Oneida County Sheriff's Dept., Mr. Paul Whittkamp – Communications Coordinator, State of Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services; Mr. Rob Rude – Regional Director, Wisconsin Emergency Management; Assistant Chief Ed Kassing, Eau Claire Fire Dept.; Mr. Dave Kreitzmann – Traffic Operations Engineer, Bureau of Highway Operations, State of Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation (for Mr. John Corbin); Mr. Gale Sorum – OJA; James W. Koleas – OJA, Chair of the Steering Committee.

Invited Guests: Mr. John Verhyen –Chief Engineer, Wisconsin State Patrol; Mr. Al Wohlferd – Communications Director, Wisconsin Emergency Management; Ms. Karen Carlson – FOXCOM, Lt. David Kiesner – Outagamie Sheriff's Dept.; Mr. Stacey Black – Senior Manager, TranSmart Technologies, Inc.;

OJA Staff: Ms. Bonnie Locke – Planning Director; Mr. Josh Maas – Homeland Security Grant Program; Mr. Greg Engle –Homeland Security Grant Program; Ms. Marcia Kasieta –Consultant and Mr. Michael Jordan – Homeland Security Grant Program.

From Federal Engineering Inc: Mr. John Murray, Senior VP and Mr. Peter LaVenja, Senior Consultant.

Following introductions Jim Koleas expressed OJA's thanks for participation in this effort. It was explained that the Steering Committee's role in this process is to guide the consultant's work, which will result in recommendations for a statewide communications interoperability plan. This important work is expected to be completed in June and is designed to provide help in tackling a very difficult and complex problem. Mr. Koleas then introduced Mr. Murray and Mr. LaVenja for the presentation.

The presentation by Federal Engineering was accompanied by a handout entitled ‘Statewide Needs Assessment and Plan for the Improvement of Public Safety Radio Communications Systems in Wisconsin’ and will be available on-line either on the OJA web site or the FE web site; Fedeng.com/

An overview of the presentation follows:

Introductions

- * Overview of Federal Engineering, Inc.
- * High Level review of proposed approach
- * Review of tentative program schedule
- * Open Discussion

Following the presentation the consultants fielded several questions. It became very clear that the goal of achieving interoperability would require cooperation, collaboration, and funding and political support to a degree not yet achieved.

It was also acknowledged that we need to become aware of and support on-going interoperability initiatives across the state and across the 10 related disciplines working on homeland security issues.

A tentative meeting schedule was agreed upon:

Feb. 17, 2004: - Wisconsin Rapids
March 15, 2004 – Milwaukee
April 7, 2004: - Dane Co.
April 22, 2004: (teleconference date)
May 6, 2004: - Wausau
June 3, 2004: - Eau Claire

* NOTE: Other meetings and/or teleconferences may be called at the discretion of the chair.

Please direct any questions or comments to:

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